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(54) **LIGHTING SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR
IMAGE AND OBJECT ENHANCEMENT**

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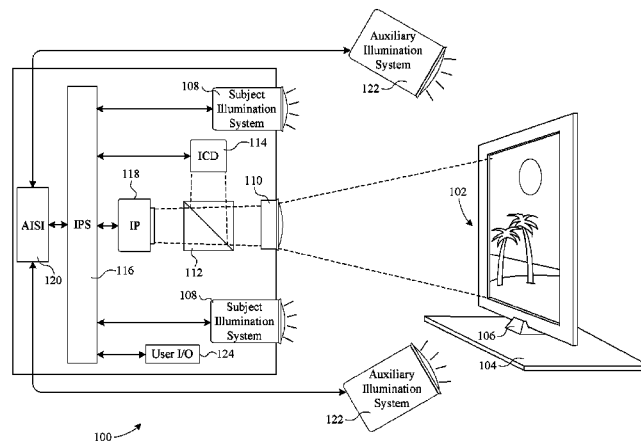
Assistant Examiner — Marly Camargo

(57)

ABSTRACT

A novel lighting system includes an image capture device,
an image processor, and an image projector. In a particular
embodiment, the image capture device captures and con-
verts images of a subject into image data, the image pro-
cessor generates illumination patterns based on the image
data, and the image projector projects the illumination
patterns onto the subject. Optionally, the lighting system
includes a controlled feedback mechanism for periodically
updating the illumination pattern. In a more particular
embodiment, the lighting system continually updates the
illumination pattern to illuminate the subject in real-time.

20 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets



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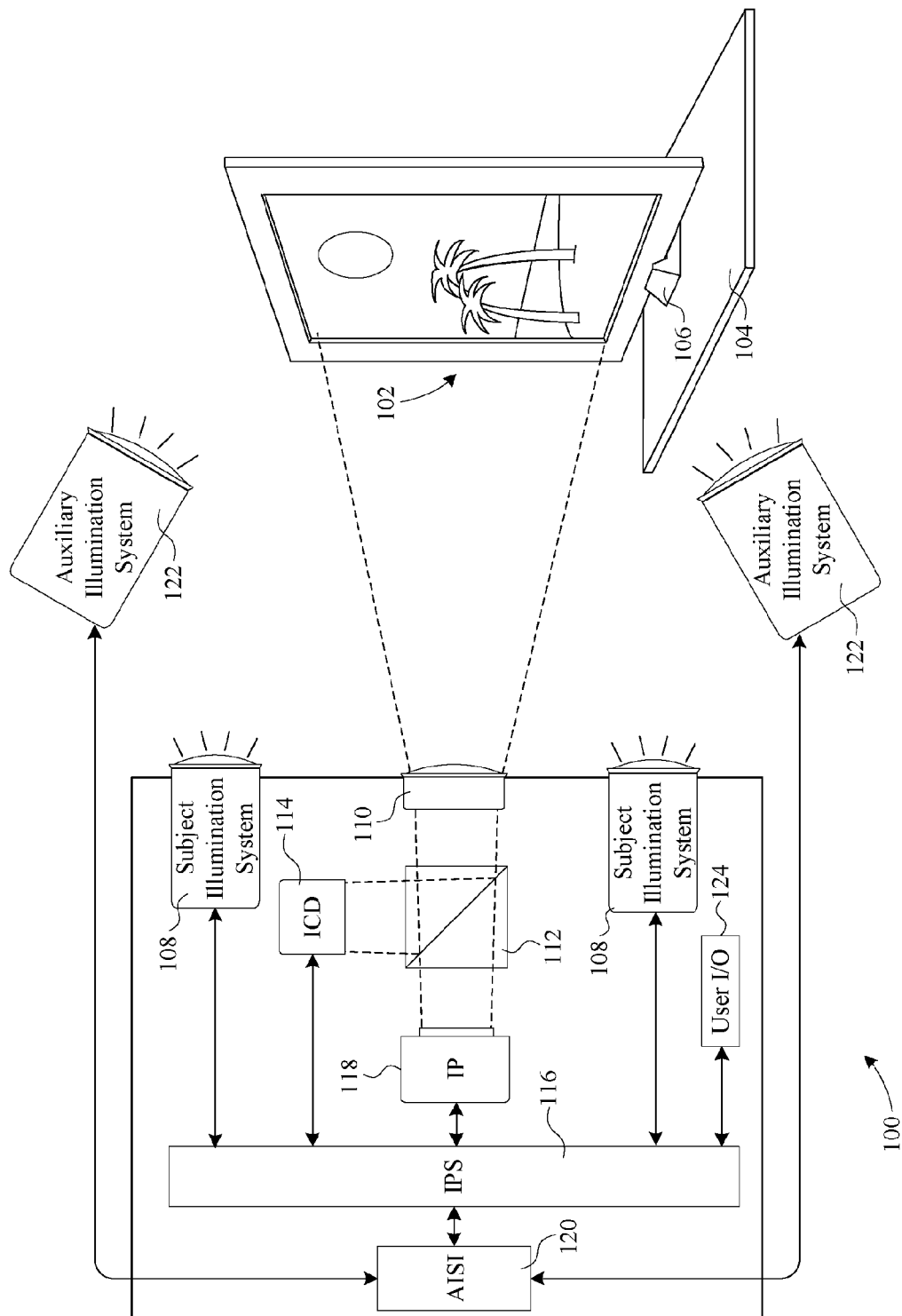


FIG. 1

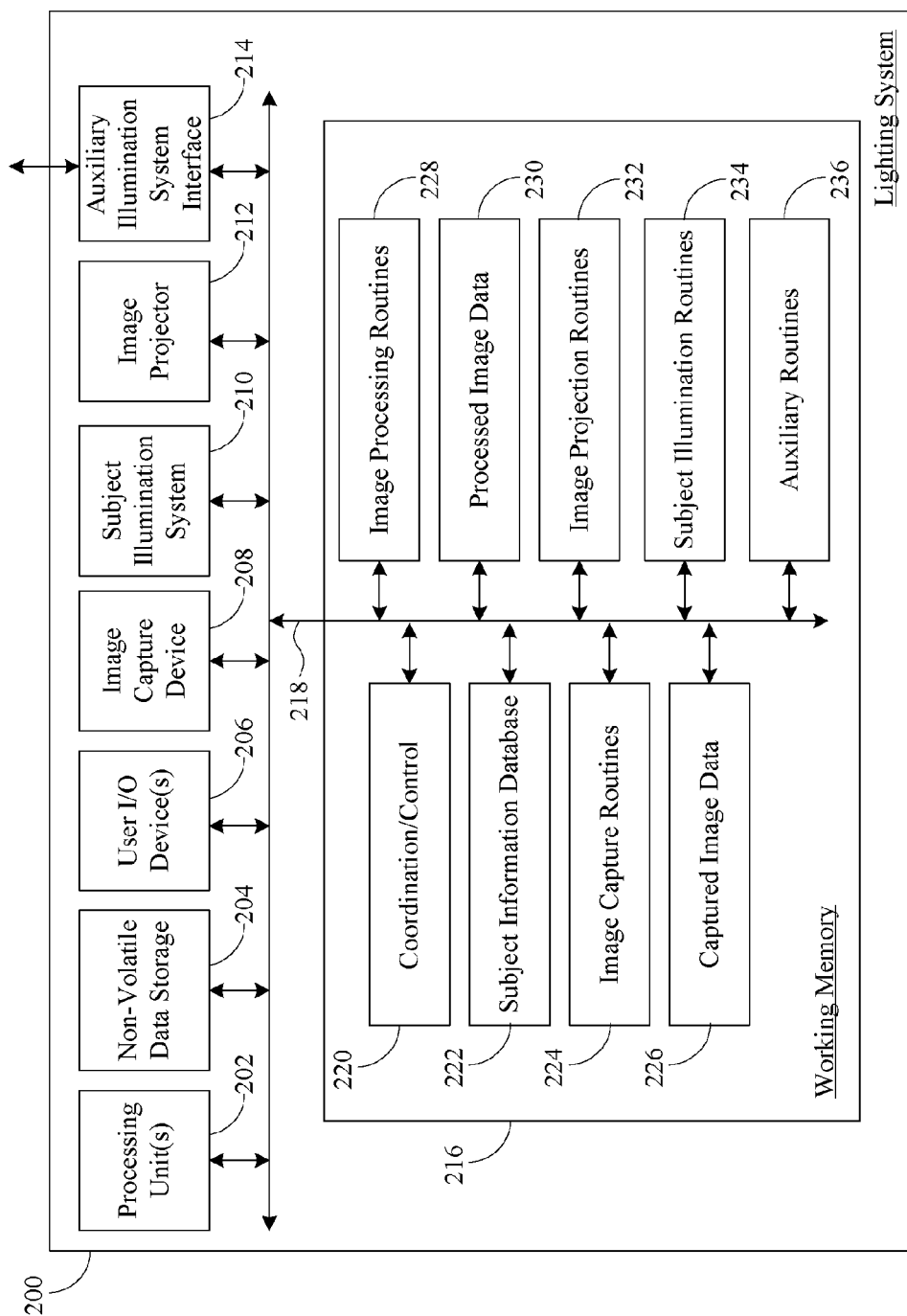


FIG. 2

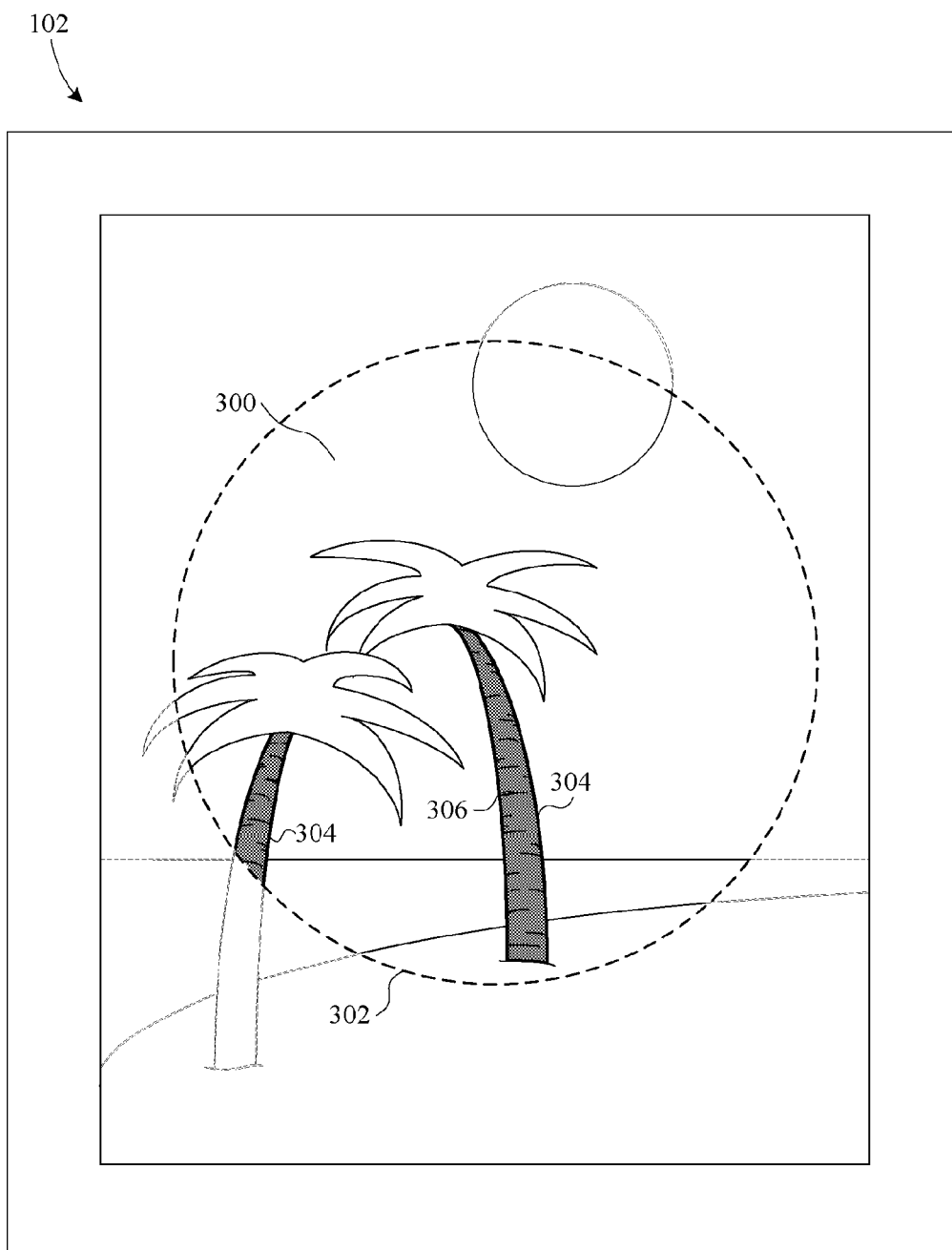


FIG. 3

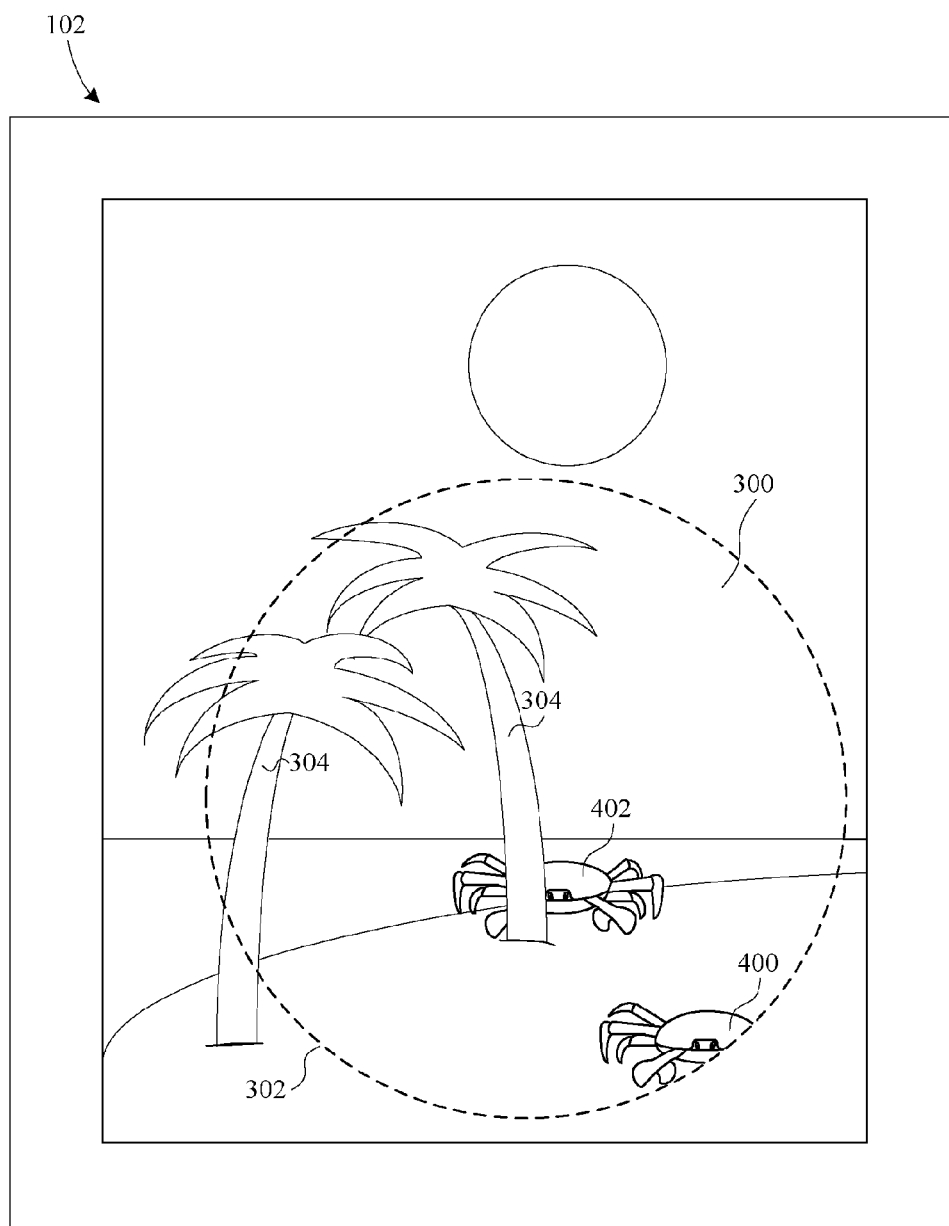


FIG. 4

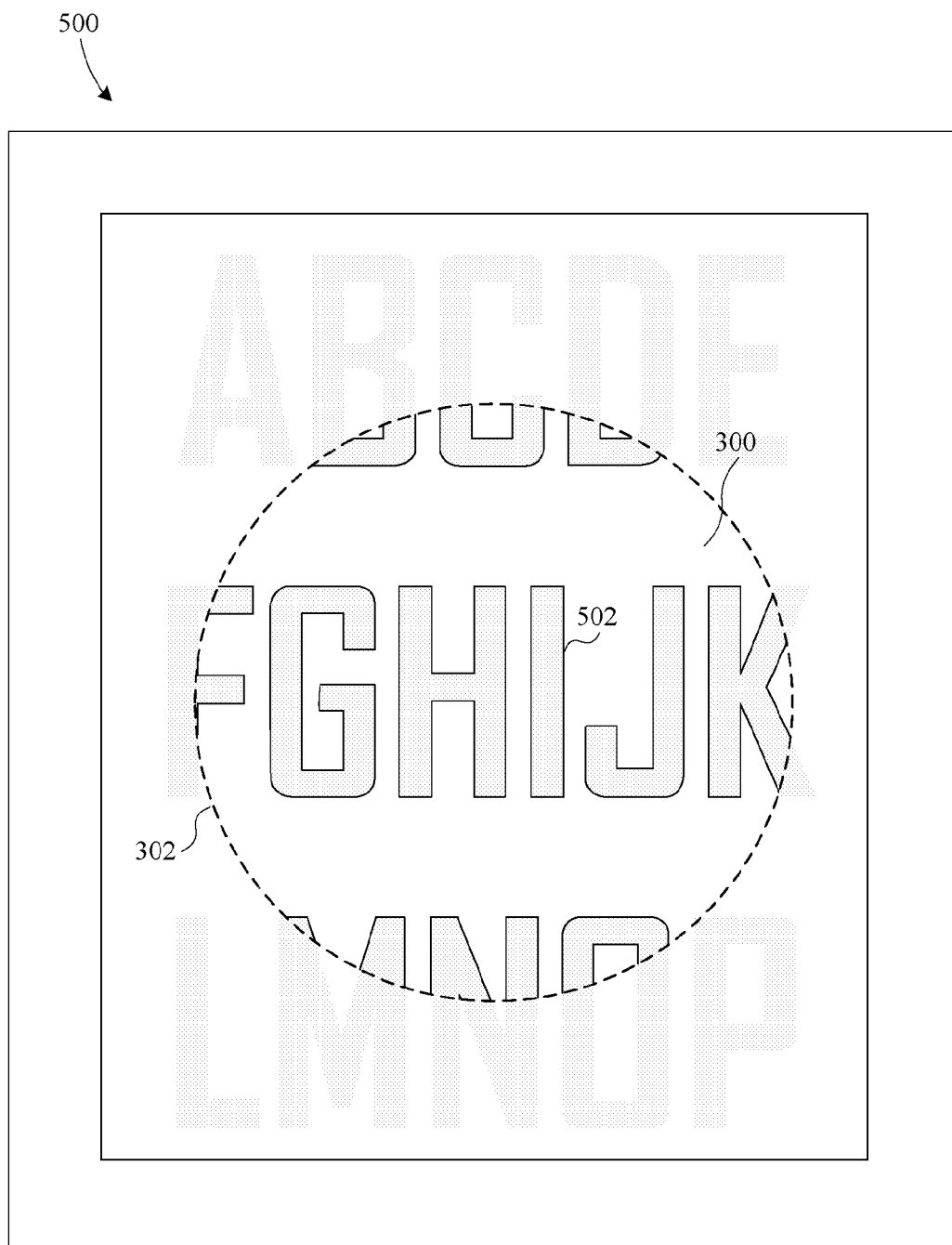
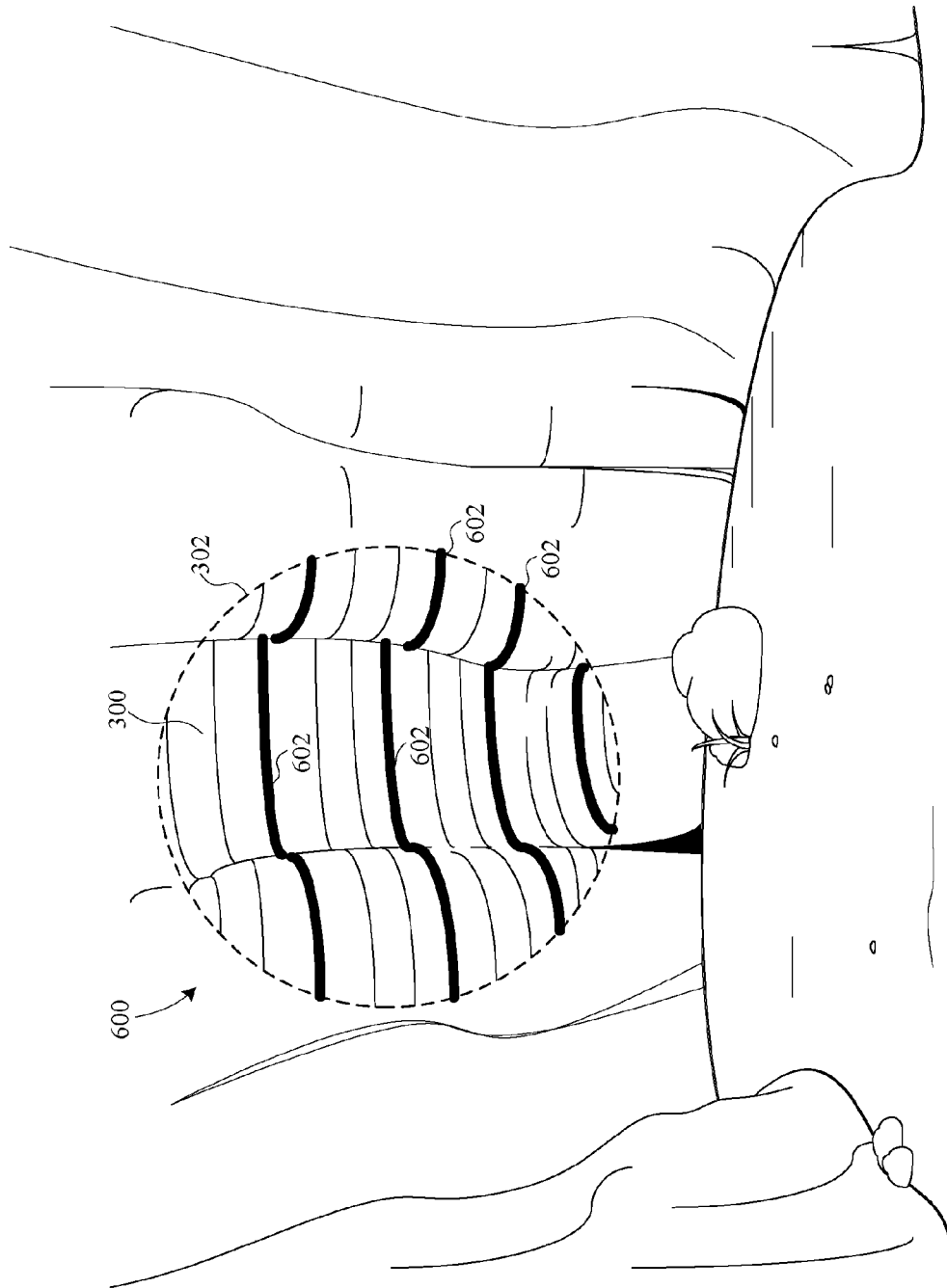


FIG. 5



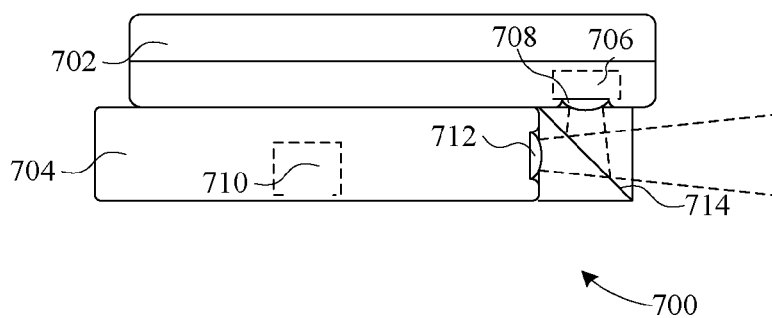


FIG. 7

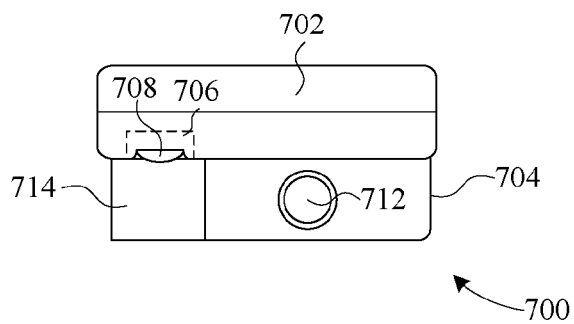


FIG. 8

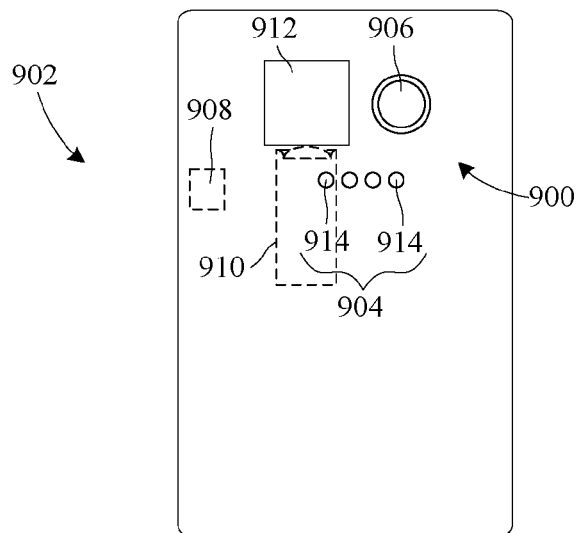


FIG. 9

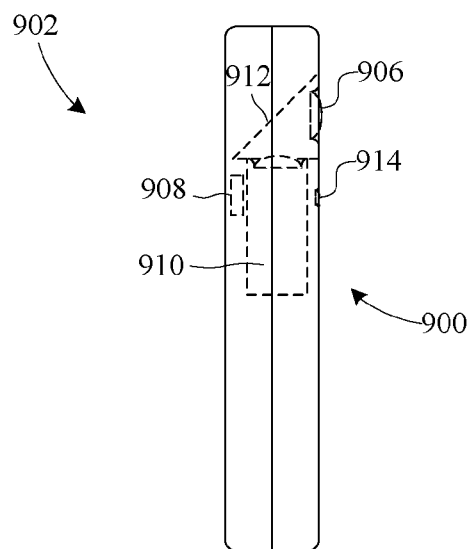


FIG. 10

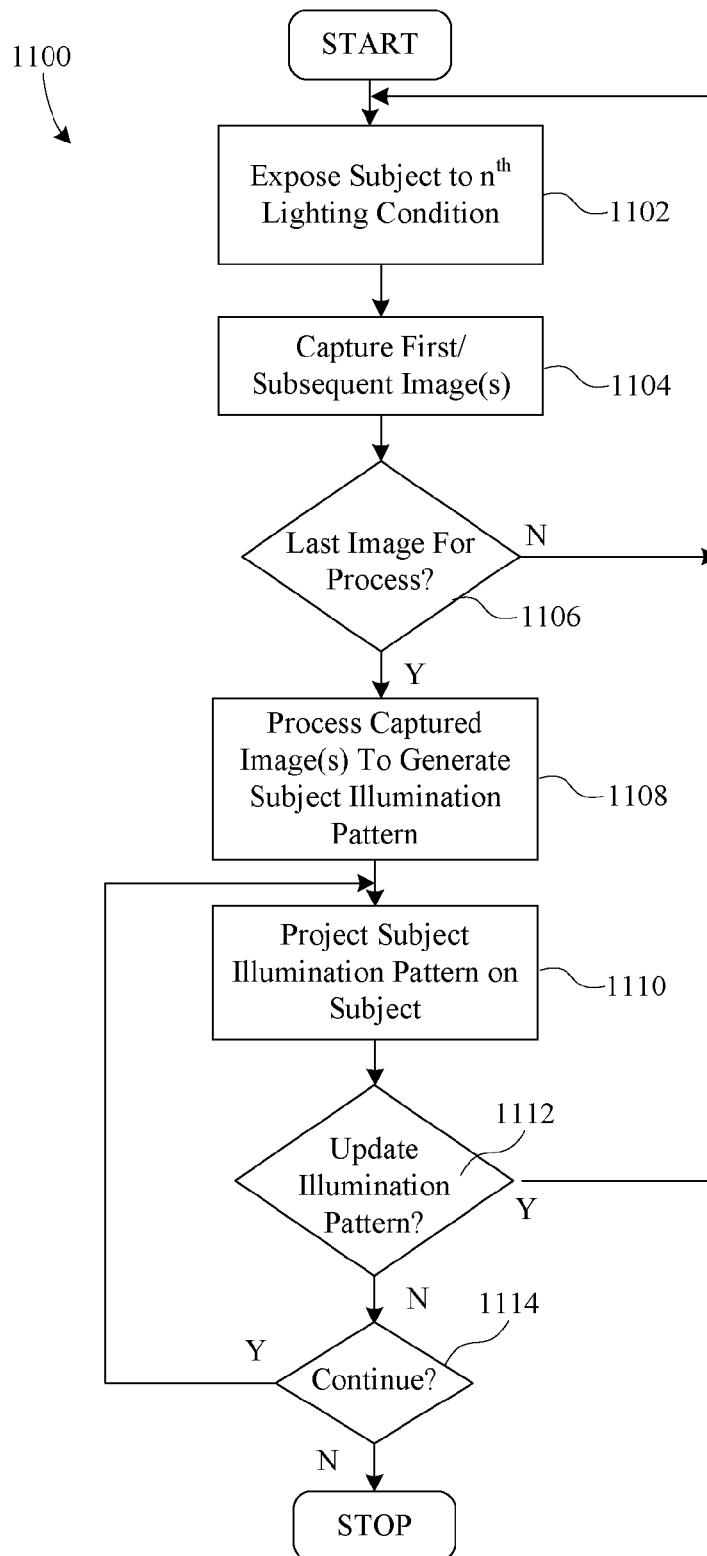


FIG. 11

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LIGHTING SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR IMAGE AND OBJECT ENHANCEMENT

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority to U.S. Patent Provisional Application No. 61/610,293, filed 13 Mar. 2012, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates generally to lighting systems, and more particularly to a lighting system with controlled image capture and illumination capabilities.

2. Description of the Background Art

There are many different types of lighting systems for enhancing or altering the appearance of real objects. Among the simplest form of such systems are those commonly used in art galleries to showcase still art work such as, for example, paintings, photographs, sculptures, etc. These systems typically include one or more lamps that continuously illuminate a subject from one or more fixed positions.

Although traditional fixed position lighting systems can enhance visibility and appearance to some degree, their capabilities are substantially limited by their inherent simplicity. For example, such systems typically illuminate an entire subject uniformly with a single specific lighting condition (e.g., intensity, color, etc.), thus making it unlikely to achieve lighting conditions that are optimal for enhancing the overall appearance of a subject. This is because a single subject typically has many different textures and/or colors that vary greatly and the optimal lighting conditions for one specific texture and/or color are not necessarily the optimal conditions for another. As another limitation, it is difficult to selectively isolate and enhance the appearance of specific details (e.g., certain colors, textures, patterns, etc.) on a subject without also illuminating adjacent details that are not of particular interest.

What is needed, therefore, is a lighting system that can employ multiple different lighting conditions simultaneously. What is also needed is a lighting system that can selectively enhance the appearance of isolated details of a subject. What is also needed is a lighting system that can render visible features of a subject that are not visible under normal lighting conditions.

SUMMARY

The present invention overcomes the problems associated with the prior art, by providing a lighting system that accurately enhances the visibility and/or appearance of specific details of an illuminated subject.

The lighting system includes an image capture device operative to capture an image of a subject as image data and an image processor coupled to receive the image data from the image capture device. The image processor is operative to generate an illumination pattern based at least in part on the image data. An image projector is coupled to receive the illumination pattern from the image processor and operative to project the illumination pattern on the subject.

In an example embodiment, the image capture device is adapted to capture image data indicative of an image formed by electromagnetic radiation that is outside of the visible spectrum (for humans). The image processor correlates the image data associated with the image formed by electro-

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magnetic radiation outside the visible spectrum with other image data indicative of another image formed by electromagnetic radiation within the visible spectrum. By correlating the visible image data with the non-visible image data, a projection pattern can be generated that, when projected onto the subject, renders non-visible features visible.

In another example embodiment, the image capture device is a camera system of a mobile host device (e.g., a mobile phone, computer tablet, etc.). Optionally, the image projector is a removable accessory adapted to cooperate with the mobile host device. In another example embodiment, the image capture device, the image projector, and the image processor are integral parts of the mobile host device.

In one embodiment, the image capture device and the image projector are optically aligned. For example, the image projector and the image capture device are optically aligned using a beam splitter. In this example embodiment, the projector and the imager share one or more lenses in the optical path. Alternatively, the projection optics and the imaging optics can be separate.

In an example embodiment, the lighting system includes a subject illumination system operative to illuminate the subject while the image capture device captures images of the subject. In one embodiment, the lighting system is a self-contained device and the illumination source is an integral part of the device. In another example embodiment, the lighting system further includes an auxiliary lighting system interface and the illumination source is an auxiliary lighting system coupled to the auxiliary lighting interface. The illumination source can illuminate the subject with light either inside or outside of the visible spectrum, or both.

Optionally, the illumination pattern can be generated based on a plurality of separate captured images of the subject. In that case, the image data is indicative of at least a first image of the subject and a second image of the subject. By way of example, the subject can be illuminated by the illumination source at a first intensity during capture of the first image. The subject is then illuminated by the illumination source at a second intensity (different from the first intensity) during capture of the second image. Alternatively, a plurality of images can be captured while the subject is illuminated at a uniform intensity, but from a variety of different angles. Using multiple captured images, the image processing system can generate a projection pattern that is a high dynamic range image of the subject.

A method of illuminating a subject is also described. The method includes the steps of converting a first image of a subject into image data, processing the image data to generate an illumination pattern, and projecting the illumination pattern on the subject. In one particular method, the first image of the subject is formed by electromagnetic radiation outside of the visible spectrum. In a more particular method, the step of processing the image data to generate an illumination pattern includes converting the image data of the first image (non-visible spectrum) into image data indicative of an image within the visible spectrum.

In an example method, the step of capturing a first image includes illuminating the subject while the first image is captured. In an even more particular embodiment, the step of capturing a first image of the subject further includes illuminating the subject at a first intensity level while the first image is captured, and capturing a second image of the subject while the subject is illuminated at a second, different intensity level. Optionally, the method further includes using the multiple images of the subject to generate a projection pattern that is a high dynamic range image of the subject.

Applications of the invention include, but are not limited to, manufacturing, prospecting, mining, museums and art galleries, consumer products, research, satellite photo analysis, education, meeting rooms, and theaters.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention is described with reference to the following drawings, wherein like reference numbers denote substantially similar elements:

FIG. 1 shows a lighting system for enhancing the appearance and/or visibility of a subject;

FIG. 2 is a block diagram of a microprocessor-based lighting system for enhancing the appearance and/or visibility of a subject;

FIG. 3 shows a front view of a subject illuminated by the system of FIG. 1 or the system of FIG. 2;

FIG. 4 shows another front view of the subject of FIG. 3 illuminated by the system of FIG. 1 or the system of FIG. 2;

FIG. 5 shows a front view of another subject illuminated by the system of FIG. 1 or the system of FIG. 2;

FIG. 6 shows a front view of another subject illuminated by the system of FIG. 1 or the system of FIG. 2;

FIG. 7 shows a side view of another lighting system;

FIG. 8 shows a top view of the lighting system of FIG. 7

FIG. 9 shows a rear view of yet another lighting system;

FIG. 10 shows a side view of the lighting system of FIG. 9; and

FIG. 11 shows a flow chart summarizing one method for illuminating an object.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The present invention overcomes the problems associated with the prior art, by providing a lighting system that captures an image of a subject, generates an illumination pattern based on the captured image, and projects the illumination pattern back onto the subject. The projected illumination pattern enhances the appearance and/or visibility of the subject. In the following description, numerous specific details are set forth (e.g., specific subjects) in order to provide a thorough understanding of the invention. Those skilled in the art will recognize, however, that the invention may be practiced apart from these specific details. In other instances, details of well known digital image processing practices (e.g., object augmentation, pattern recognition, etc.) and components have been omitted, so as not to unnecessarily obscure the present invention.

FIG. 1 illustrates a lighting system 100 that enhances the appearance of a subject by capturing an image of the subject, generating an illumination pattern (e.g., a high contrast image of the subject), and projecting the illumination pattern back onto the subject. In this particular embodiment, lighting system 100 is shown illuminating a subject 102, which is depicted by way of example as a painting. Subject 102 is positioned on a subject platform 104 (e.g., a table top) by, for example, a small easel 106. Although subject 102 is a substantially two-dimensional object (i.e., a painting), system 100 can also be used to enhance the appearance of three-dimensional subjects including, but not limited to, sculptures, people, artifacts, manufactured parts/assemblies, stage props, architectural structures, and natural structures. Additionally, the illumination system of the present invention can be used to enhance the appearance of relatively small three-dimensional features (e.g., brush strokes, texture, etc.) in a substantially two dimensional object such as painting 102.

Lighting system 100 includes a subject illumination system 108, system optics 110, beam splitter 112, image capture device (ICD) 114, an image processing system (IPS) 116, an image projector (IP) 118, an auxiliary illumination system interface (AISI) 120, an auxiliary illumination system 122, and a user interface 124. Illumination system 108 includes one or more light sources disposed to sufficiently illuminate subject 102. System optics 110 focuses an image of subject 102 through beam splitter 112 and onto ICD 114. ICD 114 converts the optical image to data and communicates the image data to image processing system 116. Image processing system 116 processes the image data to generate projection patterns and communicates the projection patterns to image enhancing projector 118, which projects the patterns, through beam splitter 112 and system optics 110, onto subject 102. The patterns projected onto subject 102 are specifically designed to enhance the visibility of certain features of subject 102.

In this embodiment, subject illumination system 108 is a ring of lights operative to illuminate subject 102 while ICD 114 captures one or more images of subject 102. In the example embodiment, illumination system 108 includes a plurality of light sources that are coupled to, and controlled by, IPS 116 so as to synchronize subject illumination operations of illumination system 108 with image capture operations of ICD 114. Furthermore, each light source is selectively controlled by IPS 116 such that the exposure illumination conditions (i.e., intensity, color, source position, direction, etc.) can be varied.

System optics 110 is a lens system operative to focus an image of subject 102 through beam splitter 112 and onto ICD 114. In addition, illumination patterns projected by IP 118 through beam splitter 112 are also focused onto subject 102 via optics 110. Beam splitter 112 enables ICD 114 to capture images of subject 102 from the same perspective as that from which projector 118 projects illumination patterns onto subject 102. Alternatively, ICD 114 could be facing directly toward subject 102 on a separate optical axis than projector 118, thus eliminating the need for beam splitter 112.

ICD 114 is an electronic image capture device (e.g., CMOS sensor system, CCD sensor, etc.) operative to capture images of subject 102. Selection of an appropriate image capture device will depend on the intended use of the system. For example, if the system is intended to enhance the visibility of objects that are highly reflective for a certain wavelength of light, then the image capture device should be sensitive to that particular wavelength of light, whether or not that wavelength is in the visible spectrum. As another example, image capture devices can include filters to limit sensitivity to one or more particular spectral ranges. ICD 114 can be configured to take high resolution images or a stream of lower resolution images at some predetermined periodic interval, based on the particular application.

IPS 116 is coupled to receive image data from ICD 114 and generate an illumination pattern based on the image data. The particular image enhancing effect that the illumination pattern will add to the subject 102 will depend on the desired enhancement and, therefore, on the particular digital image processing techniques that are selected to process the image data to obtain the desired result. For example, to enhance the contrast of subject 102, the projected illumination pattern could be a high contrast version of the originally captured image that is generated by processing the image data using known contrast enhancing digital image processing techniques. It will be appreciated that the illumination

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pattern can be generated by processing the image data using any now known or yet to be developed digital image processing technique.

Image projector **118** is coupled to receive the illumination pattern from IPS **116** and project it through beam splitter **112** and onto subject **102**. The particular type of projector will vary depending on the intended use. For example, image projector **118** could be any type of monochromatic or polychromatic projector system. Furthermore, any known projection technology could be implemented in the present invention. Such technologies include, but are not limited to, laser scanning, digital light processing (DLP), and liquid crystal on silicon (LCOS).

Auxiliary illumination system interface **120** facilitates communication between IPS **116** and auxiliary illumination system **122**. Interface **120** could be, for example, an electrical port for establishing a wired connection with system **122**. Alternatively, interface **120** could be a wireless transceiver for wirelessly communicating with auxiliary illumination system **122**. As yet another example, interface **120** can be a computer bus connection.

System **122** includes external light sources (e.g., stage lighting system, subject display lighting, external image capture flash systems, etc.) that illuminate subject **102** for image capture purposes. Alternatively, system **122** could also include light sources that enhance the illumination of subject **102** for viewer observation purposes.

User I/O interface **124** includes user input/output device(s) (e.g., computer mouse, key pad, display screen, touchscreen display, etc.) that facilitate user interaction with image processing system **116**.

The following is a description, by way of example, of the operation of lighting system **100** in an open loop single image capture mode. First, IPS **116** instructs illumination system **108**, auxiliary illumination system **122**, and ICD **114** to convert an image of subject **102** into image data. In response, illumination system **108** and auxiliary illumination system **122** illuminate subject **102** according to a predetermined illumination setting. Then, ICD **114** captures an image of subject **102** focused onto ICD **114** by optics **110** and beam splitter **112**. IPS **116** receives the image data from ICD **114** and uses a preselected digital image processing technique to generate an illumination pattern (e.g., a processed version of the original captured image). Next, the processed image is communicated to projector **118**, which projects the illumination pattern through beam splitter **112** and optics **110** onto subject **102**. Optics **110** properly focuses the projected image on subject **102**. The processed image remains projected on subject **102** until a user provides input via user I/O **124**, which causes lighting system **100** to do otherwise.

The following is a description, by way of example, of the operation of lighting system **100** in a closed loop single image capture mode. First, IPS **116** instructs illumination system **108**, auxiliary illumination system **122**, and ICD **114** to convert an image of subject **102** into image data. In response, illumination system **108** and auxiliary illumination system **122** illuminate subject **102** according to a predetermined illumination setting. Then, ICD **114** captures an image of subject **102** focused onto ICD **114** by optics **110** and beam splitter **112**. IPS **116** receives the image data from ICD **114** and uses a preselected digital image processing technique to generate an illumination pattern (e.g., a processed version of the original captured image). Next, the processed image is communicated to projector **118**, which projects the illumination pattern through beam splitter **112** and optics **110** onto subject **102**. Optics **110** properly focuses

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the projected image on subject **102**. To this point, the operation of lighting system **100** is substantially the same as in the open loop mode. However, in the closed loop mode, the process is repeated in a closed loop fashion at a refresh rate sufficient to illuminate subject **102** in real-time. It should be understood that by projecting a modified image of subject **102** back onto subject **102** in real-time, the image enhancing effects added to subject **102** would be significantly less sensitive to relative motion between lighting system **100** and subject **102**.

The following is a description, by way of example, of the operation of lighting system **100** in a closed loop multiple image capture mode. First, IPS **116** instructs system **108**, system **122**, and ICD **114** to convert a plurality of images of subject **102** into image data. In response, subject illumination system **108** and auxiliary illumination system **122** illuminate subject **102** according to a first predetermined illumination setting. Then, ICD **114** converts a first image of subject **102** into image data. Next, subject illumination system **108** and auxiliary illumination system **122** illuminate subject **102** according to a second, different predetermined illumination setting. Then, ICD **114** captures a second image of subject **102**. Next, IPS **116** receives the image data (first and second images of subject **102**) from ICD **114** and uses a selected, predefined digital image processing technique to generate projection image data (e.g., a single high dynamic range image of subject **102**) based at least in part on a portion of the first image data and at least a portion of the second image data. Next, the projection image data is communicated to projector **118**, which projects the projection image onto subject **102** via optics **110**. Then, the first step is repeated in a closed loop fashion at a refresh rate sufficient to maintain proper illumination of subject **102** in real-time. It should be understood that lighting system **100** can also be operated in an open loop multiple image capture mode by simply not repeating the image capture and image processing steps.

Although the example embodiment of FIG. 1 is integrated into a single component, it should be understood that alternate embodiments of the invention could be implemented with discrete components. For example, in an alternate embodiment, image enhancing projector **118** and optics **110** are embodied in a conventional projector, image capture device **114** is a digital camera or camcorder (with its own separate optics), and image processing system **116** is hosted on a personal computer.

FIG. 2 is a block diagram of a microprocessor based lighting system **200** according to another embodiment of the present invention. System **200** includes one or more processing units **202**, non-volatile data storage **204**, one or more user input/output devices **206**, an ICD **208**, a subject illumination system **210**, an image projector **212**, an auxiliary illumination system interface **214**, and a working memory **216**, all interconnected via a system bus **218**.

Processing unit(s) **202** execute(s) data and code stored in working memory **216**, causing system **200** to carry out its various functions. Non-volatile memory **204** (e.g., read-only memory, hard drive(s), etc.) provides storage for data and code (e.g., boot code and programs) that are retained even when lighting system **100** is powered down. I/O devices **206** facilitate interaction between a user and system **200**. ICD **208** provides a means for capturing images of a subject. Illumination system **210** provides a means for illuminating the subject while ICD **208** captures an image of the subject. Image projector **212** provides a means for projecting illumination patterns on the subject. Auxiliary illumination system interface **214** provides a means of communication (e.g., wireless connection, direct electrical connection, etc.)

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between system **200** and an auxiliary lighting/illumination system. Finally, system bus **218** facilitates intercommunication between the various components of system **200**.

Working memory **216** (e.g., random access memory) provides temporary storage for data and executable code, which is loaded into working memory **216** during start-up and operation. Working memory **216** includes a coordination/control module **220**, a subject information database **222**, image capture routines **224**, captured image data **226**, image processing routines **228**, processed image data **230**, image projection routines **232**, subject illumination routines **234**, and auxiliary routines **236**.

The contents of working memory **216** provide the following functions. Coordination/control module **220** provides overall coordination and control of the various running programs. Subject information database **222** stores settings (e.g., contrast settings, colors/patterns to highlight, image processing operating mode, subject specific information, etc.) associated with the subject. Image capture routines **224** provide functionality for controlling image capture device **208**, for synchronizing the operation of ICD **208** with illumination system **210**, and any other operations necessary to convert an optical image of a subject to image data. Captured image data includes unprocessed image data from ICD **208** that will be used for generating illumination patterns. Image processing routines **228** generate processed image data (e.g. illumination patterns/images) based on the captured image data **226**. Processed image data **230** includes illumination patterns/images generated by image processing routines **228**. Image projection routines **232** provide functionality for controlling image projector **212** to accomplish the projection of images stored in processed image data module **230**. Subject illumination control routines **234** control subject illumination system **210** to properly illuminate the subject during image capture by, for example, synchronizing the operation of illumination system **210** with ICD **208**. Auxiliary routines **236** facilitate coordination and control of auxiliary lighting systems connected to auxiliary illumination system interface **214**.

FIG. **3** shows a front view of subject **102** illuminated by lighting system **100** according to an illumination pattern generated by processing image data via multiple digital image processing techniques. For illustrative purposes, only part of subject **102** (the portion enclosed by circle **302**) is shown illuminated. It should be understood, however, that the projected image would illuminate all of subject **102**.

This particular illumination scheme illustrates an example in which several illumination effects have been used to enhance the appearance of subject **102**. For example, the contrast between the palm tree trunks **304** and the adjacent background has been increased significantly by digital image processing algorithms that adjust the colors and shades of tree trunks **304** in the originally captured image to a range of colors and shades with a higher degree of contrast to the background. The range of colors and shades to which those from the original image are adjusted can be decided by either specific user inputs or automatically adjusted by IPS **116**.

Another effect added by a digital image processing technique shows physical surface details that are ordinarily not visible in ordinary lighting conditions. As shown, there are horizontal brush marks **306** on the tree trunks which are only visible in illuminated area **300** of subject **102**. To achieve this effect, the illumination pattern is a single image generated based on multiple images of subject **102** captured while subject **102** was illuminated from different illumination source positions. This technique separates specular reflec-

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tions at various angles from diffuse reflections such that the location of small physical features (i.e. surface texture) can be identified. With such features identified, an illumination pattern that best highlights the features is generated and projected on subject **102**. As with known digital image processing techniques, the visibility of unwanted features (e.g., damaged portions of a painting or other subject) can also be reduced or eliminated.

FIG. **4** shows a front view of subject **102** illuminated by lighting system **100** according to another illumination pattern generated by processing image data to include augmented objects. In this particular illumination pattern, a fixed object **400** and an active object **402** are inserted into the scene of subject **102**. As shown, fixed object **400** and active object **402** are depicted as crabs appearing to be part of the original scene. Fixed object **400** illustrates an example of projecting an object onto a subject in response to image processor system **116** analyzing the image data and determining that a predetermined condition has been met. For example, the image processing system **116** could project an object into a scene when the image data shows that some projected pointer (e.g. crosshair) is aligned with a particular object. Active object **402** illustrates a motion picture type of object that appears to be moving around the scene of subject **102**. Active object **402** not only moves around the scene of subject **102**, it also interacts with various features in order to create a more realistic illusion. For example, object **402** is shown walking behind a palm tree such that it is only partly visible, yet it becomes completely visible when it moves into the open. This is accomplished by generating the projected image based on the captured image of the subject. Furthermore, object **402** appears to get bigger as it approaches the lower region of subject **102** such that it appears to be getting closer. Another valuable aspect of the present invention is that the illumination patterns projected on the subject can be made responsive to user actions. For example, if image processor system **116** identifies the presence of a user's finger near object **402**, it can respond by making object **402** appear to elude the user's finger by fleeing behind a palm tree. Again, this is accomplished by generating the projected image based on the captured image of the subject, which would include the user's finger.

FIG. **5** shows a front view of an alternate subject **500** illuminated by lighting system **100** with another type of illumination pattern. Subject **500** is a picture of low visibility text that is enhanced to be more visible. As shown, the text within area **300** is outlined with a high visibility boundary **502** that is augmented into the illumination pattern. Boundary **502** is an effect of processing the image data with a digital image processing technique that adds a highly visible color or shade at the interface where two faint colors or shades meet. Optionally, digital image processing techniques that recognize patterns (i.e. text) can also be used to increase the visibility. Upon recognizing a familiar letter, it can be made more visible in a variety of different ways including, but not limited to, applying a highly visible boundary, increasing contrast, changing one color to another color, etc. Such enhancements can also be continuously toggled between different states (e.g., blinking).

FIG. **6** shows an alternate subject **600** illuminated by lighting system **100** to illustrate another aspect of the present invention. According to this aspect of the invention, lighting system **100** is able to make visible features of a subject that are not visible to the human eye under normal lighting conditions. Subject **600** is depicted as a cave wall comprising a plurality of mineral layers **602** that are not visible outside of area **300**. In a particular embodiment, ICD **114** is

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spectrally sensitive to electromagnetic radiation beyond the range visible to the human eye. To make the minerals visible, image processing techniques manipulate the image data by adjusting the pixel values associated with the mineral in the image to values that can be represented in the spectral range visible to the human eye. The processed image of subject 600 is projected back onto subject 600 such that the minerals are shown in real-time. Optionally, illumination system 108 projects light within a specific spectral range that, when projected on the minerals, is either visible to ICD 114 or to the human eye.

FIG. 7 and FIG. 8 show a side view and a top view, respectively, of a lighting system 700 according to another embodiment of the present invention. Lighting system 700 includes a mobile device 702 and an image projector 704 mounted and electrically coupled to one another. Mobile device 702 is, for example, a cellular phone that includes a camera 706 having a lens 708 through which an image of a subject is focused and converted into image data. Projector 704 includes an image processor 710, projection lens 712, and a mirror 714. Image processor system 710 is adapted to receive image data from mobile device 702 and generate an illumination pattern based on the image data. Projector lens 712 is operative focus the illumination pattern back on to the subject. Mirror 714 is operative to deflect an image of a subject into camera lens 708 of mobile device 704.

FIG. 9 and FIG. 10 show a rear view and a side view, respectively, of a lighting system 900 incorporated into a mobile device 902. In this particular embodiment, lighting system 900 includes an illumination system 904, a camera 906, an image processor system 908, a projector 910, and a mirror 912. Illumination system 904 includes a plurality of light sources 914 for illumination a subject while camera 906 captures an image of the subject. Image processor system 908 is coupled to receive image data from camera 906 and generate an illumination pattern based on the image data. Projector 910 is coupled to receive the illumination pattern and project it onto mirror 912 where it is reflected onto the subject.

FIG. 11 is a flow chart summarizing an example method 1100 of illuminating a subject. In a first step 1102, the subject is exposed to an nth lighting condition (i.e., a first or subsequent lighting condition). Then, in a second step 1104, the first or a subsequent image is captured. Next, in a third step 1106, it is determined whether the captured image is the last image for the process. If so, method 1100 continues to a fourth step 1108. Otherwise, method 1100 returns to first step 1102. In fourth step 1108, captured image(s) are processed to generate a subject illumination pattern. Next, in a fifth step 1110, the subject illumination pattern is projected on the subject. Then, in a sixth step 1112, it is determined whether the illumination pattern should be updated. If so, method 1100 returns to first step 1102. Otherwise, the method continues to a seventh step 1114, wherein it is determined whether the process should continue. If so, method 1100 continues fifth step. Otherwise, method 1100 ends.

The description of particular embodiments of the present invention is now complete. Many of the described features may be substituted, altered or omitted without departing from the scope of the invention. For example, alternate digital image processing techniques (e.g., sharpness adjustment, color correction, etc.), may be substituted for the previously described digital image processing techniques. As another example, alternate environments (e.g., an assembly line or other moving platform) can serve as the subject platform. The illumination system could then be used to

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selectively illuminate areas of materials with specific optical properties, highlighting flaws or contamination, or identifying incorrectly aligned parts requiring corrective measures. As yet another example, the image processing routines can be used previously stored information about a subject (e.g., color correcting a print of a painting with known color targets and areas, using pattern matching techniques to project what a scene might have looked like beyond the borders of the current image, etc.). As yet another example, the system can be used as an input device, by projecting screens of information on various hand-drawn images and/or automatically color in or finish sketches. As yet another example, the system can allow the use of a regular laser pointer to draw on the projected screen, or use different color lasers to select for different kinds of interaction (e.g., green draws, red moves objects around, etc.), thus allowing multiple users to interact simultaneously with the same screen without requiring any additional hardware beyond the laser pointers. In addition, the ability to present interactive content could be used in theaters. These and other deviations from the particular embodiments shown will be apparent to those skilled in the art, particularly in view of the foregoing disclosure.

I claim:

1. A lighting system comprising:

an image capture device operative to capture an image of a subject as image data;

an image processor coupled to receive said image data from said image capture device, said image processor being operative to generate an illumination pattern based at least in part on said image data;

an image projector coupled to receive said illumination pattern and operative to project said illumination pattern on said subject; and

a subject illumination system operative to illuminate said subject while said image capture device captures one or more images of said subject; and

wherein said image data is indicative of at least a first image of said subject and a second image of said subject, said subject being illuminated by said subject illumination system at a first intensity during the capture of said first image, said subject being illuminated by said subject illumination system at a second intensity during the capture of said second image, and said first intensity being different than said second intensity.

2. A lighting system according to claim 1, wherein said image capture device is adapted to capture image data indicative of an image formed by electromagnetic radiation that is outside the visible spectrum.

3. A lighting system according to claim 2, wherein said image processor is operative to convert at least some of said image data indicative of an invisible image formed by electromagnetic radiation that is outside the visible spectrum into converted image data indicative of a visible image formed by electromagnetic radiation within the visible spectrum.

4. A lighting system according to claim 3, wherein said image processor is operative to generate said illumination pattern based at least in part on said converted image data such that said illumination pattern renders an invisible feature of said subject visible when said illumination pattern is projected on said subject.

5. A lighting system according to claim 1, wherein said image capture device is a camera system of a mobile host device.

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6. A lighting system according to claim 5, wherein said image projector is a removable accessory adapted to cooperate with said mobile host device.

7. A lighting system according to claim 5, wherein said image capture device, said image projector, and said image processor are integral parts of said mobile host device.

8. A lighting system according to claim 5, wherein said mobile host device is a cellular phone.

9. A lighting system according to claim 1, wherein said image capture device and said image projector are optically aligned.

10. A lighting system according to claim 9, further including a beam splitter disposed to direct an image of said subject to said image capture device and to direct said illumination pattern onto said subject.

11. A lighting system according to claim 1, wherein said projection pattern is a high dynamic range image of said subject.

12. A lighting system according to claim 1, wherein: said lighting system is embodied in a self-contained device; and

said subject illumination system is an integral part of said device.

13. A lighting system according to claim 1, further comprising an auxiliary lighting system interface.

14. A lighting system according to claim 1, wherein said subject illumination system includes:

a first light source operative to generate light at one of said first intensity and said second intensity; and

a second light source operative to generate light at the other of said first intensity and said second intensity.

15. A method for illuminating a subject, said method comprising:

controllably illuminating a subject with a subject illumination system while images of said subject are captured;

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illuminating said subject at a first intensity with said subject illumination system while a first image of said subject is captured;

capturing a second image of said subject while said subject is illuminated with said subject illumination system at a second intensity, said second intensity being different than said first intensity;

converting said first image of said subject and said second image of said subject into image data;

processing said image data to generate an illumination pattern; and

projecting said illumination pattern with a projection system onto said subject.

16. A method according to claim 15, wherein said first image of said subject is formed by electromagnetic radiation outside of the visible spectrum.

17. A method according to claim 16, wherein said step of processing said image data to generate an illumination pattern includes converting said image data indicative of an image outside the visible spectrum into converted image data indicative of an image within the visible spectrum.

18. A method according to claim 17, wherein said illumination pattern renders an invisible feature of said subject visible when said illumination pattern is projected on said subject.

19. A method according to claim 17, wherein said subject illumination system includes:

a first light source operative to generate light at one of said first intensity and said second intensity; and

a second light source operative to generate light at the other of said first intensity and said second intensity.

20. A method according to claim 15, wherein said illumination pattern is a high dynamic range image of said subject.

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